

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SNM-05
DEAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00
IO-13 /074 W

-----048503 260344Z /14

R 251411Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8261
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21025

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, TH
SUBJ: USE OF NARC ORDER 22 IN PROVINCES

REF: BANGKOK 14942

1. UPDATING REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NARC ORDER 22
(REFTEL) CONSULATES REPORT THAT ABOUT 400-500 PERSONS
MONTHLY ARE ARRESTED UNDER ORDER 22 IN PROVINCES OUTSIDE OF
BANGKOK AREA. TWO-THIRDS OF ARRESTS ARE IN THE NORTHEAST.
SOUTHERN REGION HAS FEWEST ORDER 22 ARRESTS, AVERAGING
40 A MONTH DURING FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR. CHARGES
AGAINST ORDER 22 ARRESTEES VARY BY REGION, BUT LARGE
MAJORITY ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL,
ACTS. FOR EXAMPLE IN NORTHERN THAILAND, ORDER 22 IS ALMOST
EXCLUSIVELY USED AGAINST NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS.

2. ONLY IN THE NORTHEAST IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF ORDER
22 BEING USED AGAINST POLITICAL OFFENDERS. EVEN IN THAT
PART OF THE COUNTRY, PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS INDICATE ONLY A
SMALL PROPORTION OF THE AVERAGE 150-300 MONTHLY ARRESTS ARE
POLITICAL IN NATURE (MAINLY COMMUNIST ACTIVITY). FOR THE
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MOST PART, NORTHEASTERN PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS USE POWERS OF
ORDER 22 MORE GENERALLY TO ARREST PERSONS ENGAGED IN
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OR DISORDERLY CONDUCT.

3. OVERALL, USE OF ORDER 22 AS WEAPON AGAINST POLITICAL
DISSENT IS MINIMAL. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES USE BROAD
DETENTION POWERS OF ORDER 22 PRIMARILY TO DETAIN

CRIMINALS NOT EASILY ARRESTED AND DETAINED UNDER NORMAL
PROCEDURES. O'DONOHUE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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